



# Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter

Summer 2007

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Vol. 21

## Legislature Funds Riparian Vegetation Management

The passage of LB 701 is good news for county weed control authorities and private landowners. This legislation creates the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force and appropriates funding for vegetation management. LB 701 directs the Task Force to develop and prioritize vegetation management goals in fully appropriated or over-appropriated river basins designated by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Legislature appropriated \$2 million annually for two years for the management of vegetation within the banks of a natural stream. Priority for the first year is given to fully appropriated river basins that are the

subject of an interstate compact or decree. This priority encompasses the Republican River Basin. Local county weed control authorities are encouraged to work with their local weed management area and natural resource districts to apply for a grant to control vegetation in the streambed of the Republican River.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture will be awarding grants in the near future in the Republican River Basin to control or remove invasive vegetation in the streambed. County weed control authorities, weed management areas, and NRDs are developing partners to work on several projects throughout the basin. This cooperative effort will create new

partners in the control of noxious and invasive weeds. Many streambeds of our river systems have been narrowed and channelized by this vegetation which slows the flow of water as well as creates the potential for flooding during heavy rain events.

A project of this magnitude will need cooperation from all private and public landowners to ensure the program is successful. Water is an important commodity to all citizens of Nebraska and legislation like LB 701 is a great start in protecting our river systems from water-robbing invasive plants.

More information on this program can be found at [www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/nwp/nwp1.htm](http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/nwp/nwp1.htm).

## Growing Your Profits with Certified Crop Advisers

The Certified Crop Adviser Program (CCA) is one of the professional certification programs offered by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). It is a voluntary program providing a base level of standard through testing, and raising that standard through continuing education. The program is administered locally by 37 state, regional, or provincial boards throughout the United States and Canada. A trained professional can increase gross profit by as much as \$25 per acre, depending on the crop and weather.

Each CCA must pass two exams (international and local) and submit credentials detailing their education and crop advising experience, plus two references. In Nebraska, the exam is offered annually in early February. The exams cover four major competency areas: nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest

management, and crop management. CCAs must also sign and adhere to a rigid code of ethics, meaning they always focus on grower profitability while optimizing and protecting natural resources.

To maintain the certification, the CCA must earn 40 hours of continuing education every two years. Continuing education must also fall into one of the four competency areas to be valid for CCA Continuing Education Units (CEUs). A fifth competency area in which a CCA may gain credits is Professional Development. Agricultural scientists and industry specialists offer training to CCAs and depend on them to pass that knowledge on to the producer.

Each year, one of the competency areas and its performance objectives are carefully reviewed and updated by a committee that represents both the private and public sector from across the United States and Canada. This allows the program to remain current

and evolve with the needs of the crop production industry.

There are currently 10 individuals from across the state who serve on the Nebraska CCA Board of Directors, they are: Don Williams, Chairman, Orchard; Rich Reiman, Lincoln; Darren Sudbeck, Hebron; Dr. Bruce Anderson, Lincoln; Gary Buttermore, Lincoln; Bob Kacvinsky, Lincoln; Charles Starostka, Silver Creek; Ray Ward, Kearney; Mike Kucera, Lincoln; Larry Dedic, Pleasant Dale. Bob Anderson of Lincoln serves as the agent for the Nebraska program.

With 770 CCAs in Nebraska, and an average of 30 new CCAs joining each year, the program continues to thrive. If you would like more information regarding the CCA program, qualifications, or exam information, please contact Bob Anderson, Nebraska CCA Agent, at (402) 476-1258, or [info@necca.org](mailto:info@necca.org).

## 2007 Pesticide Disposal Program

The spring of 2007 once again developed into a successful collection program for Nebraskans who wished to dispose of unwanted or unusable pesticides. This was the tenth year that a program was held in Nebraska since it was initially held in 1995. This program was jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, and the Nebraska Agri Business Association. In 2007, 120,628 pounds of product was collected, which when added to previous collection amounts, brings the total amount collected since 1995 to 2,395,396 pounds.

NDA has been extremely fortunate to obtain funding for this project over the years. Grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with

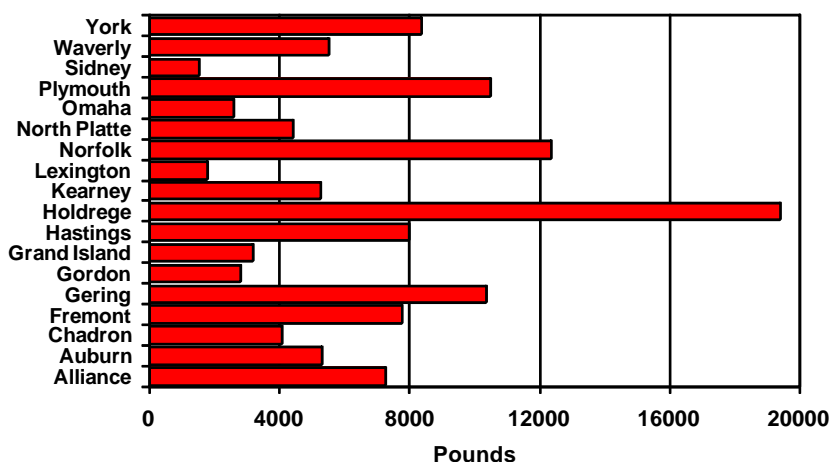
additional funding being provided by NDA have made these programs possible. At the present time, no funds are available for future programs.

NDA expresses their appreciation to everyone who helped make this

program such a huge success.

See [www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/waste.htm](http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/waste.htm) for site specific information. If you have any questions, please call the Bureau of Plant Industry at (402) 471-2394.

### 2007 Waste Pesticide Collection Program



## Applicator Licensing: 60-day Exemption Rule

The Nebraska Pesticide Act (Section 2-2642(5)) and Nebraska Pesticide Regulations (Section 005.04) allows uncertified applicators to operate without a license under the following provisions:

1. The exemption applies to anyone who must be certified to apply pesticides. This would include anyone applying restricted-use pesticides (RUPs) for any purpose, commercial or noncommercial, applicators applying any structural or outdoor vector control pesticides, and commercial applicators applying any turf, ornamental, or lawn care pesticides.
2. The uncertified applicator must be supervised by a properly certified applicator who possesses the correct license category for the work being done.
3. The uncertified applicator must apply for the exemption within 10 days of their first application

of a pesticide for which certification is required.

4. The 60-day exemption is counted for consecutive calendar days from the first day of a pesticide application, not 60 cumulative application days or 60 cumulative workdays.
5. The statute indicates that uncertified applicators are eligible for only one 60-day exemption; therefore, NDA has determined this means the exemption is a once-in-a-lifetime exemption, and all individuals receiving the exemption are tracked in a legacy database for this purpose.

Additional considerations of the 60-day exemption:

1. Both the supervising applicator and uncertified applicator are responsible for the actions of the uncertified applicator, and the supervisor must train the uncertified applicator in each different type of application the uncertified applicator is

expected to perform.

2. The supervising applicator must record this training and provide access to these records upon request of the NDA.
3. The supervising applicator must be in direct two-way communication with the uncertified applicator by phone, radio, or other device, and be able to be physically present at the application site within three hours of being notified by the uncertified applicator.
4. The 60-day exemption is not allowed for:
  - a. Any person who has previously held, or currently holds, a pesticide applicator license; or
  - b. Any person who has already received the 60-day exemption.

NDA has many brochures, pamphlets, and other information resources available. Please see the web version of the Summer 2007 newsletter at <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pstnx/news.htm> to review these materials. Orders can be made by phone or by using the "webmaster" e-mail address.

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## Pesticide Container Recycling Program

The 2007 Nebraska Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling program is up and running. Thirty-eight inspection/collection sites are available for applicators to deliver their rinsed, plastic pesticide containers. Your on-line reference is the Pesticide Education Resources web site at <http://pested.unl.edu/recycling>. Information is also on-line about program guidelines, roles of participants, the recycling process, and more.

The program recycles rinsed and cleaned 2.5 gallon jugs and plastic crop protection drums of 15, 30, and

55 gallons. Rinsed containers can be accepted from farmers, ranchers, custom applicators, aerial applicators, household exterminators, lawn care operators, mosquito abatement programs, roads departments, park departments, etc. Household and residential plastic pesticide containers are not accepted in this program. Once triple-rinsed, these containers may be disposed of as solid waste.

This year is the 16th year for the Nebraska Pesticide Container Recycling Program. Since 1992, UNL Extension, with NDA, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality,

and many cooperating businesses and organizations have recycled nearly 1,600,000 pounds of plastic. That's almost 800 tons of plastic that have been removed from Nebraska's landscape.

The recycled plastic is used in field drain tile, plastic pesticide containers, shipping pallets, railroad ties, marine pilings, construction site mats, truck decking, speed bumps, parking stops, dimension lumber, waste drums, and more.

Please do your part in reducing the amount of waste entering our landfills, and reducing the potential for point source pollution of pesticides!

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## Structural Pest Control PPE Requirements

Almost anyone will tell you that pesticide applicators in agricultural settings need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) that typically includes boots, gloves, and coveralls (or more, depending on the chemical). However, NDA pesticide inspectors report that many applicators involved in structural pest control (pests in homes and buildings) are not aware they are required to wear just as much PPE as most agricultural applicators. It's not a specific state law that requires this, but something required by the U.S. EPA on every pesticide label. Structural pesticides often are formulated with the same active

ingredients as their agricultural counterparts. Many of these products are insecticides, which tend to cause more human health problems than herbicides or fungicides. Because of the potential health effects, EPA has required nearly all structural pesticide labels to list specific PPE to be worn by applicators. Most insecticides and termiticides now require long-sleeve shirts, long pants, chemical-resistant footwear, chemical-resistant gloves, and eye protection. If applicators are making treatments in confined spaces such as crawl spaces or unventilated basements, the label may also require they wear a respirator.

As any certified and licensed applicator knows, the label is the law, and if a label requires an applicator to wear specific PPE, NDA will consider it a violation of both state and federal law if that PPE is not worn. NDA conducts many routine inspections of structural pesticide applications every year, paying close attention to whether applicators are following ALL of the label directions; the use of PPE is an essential part of the mandatory requirements of the label's directions for use. We urge all applicators to follow the label, protect their own health, and avoid possible regulatory penalties by wearing the PPE required.

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## Emergency Pesticide Spill and Poisoning Hotline Numbers

- **Emergency situations, such as spills or releases of petroleum products or hazardous substances, are to be immediately reported to:**

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
NDEQ - (402) 471-2186 or toll free - (877) 253-2603

Weekends or After Hours  
Nebraska State Patrol Dispatch - (402) 471-4545 or  
800-525-5555

- **For potential pesticide poisonings, contact:**  
Poison Control Center - 800-222-1222

- **For emergency chemical clean-up info:**  
ChemTrec - 800-424-9300

- **Non-emergency problems or complaints:**  
Involving Pesticides  
NDA - (402) 471-2394

Other environmental problems  
NDEQ - (402) 471-2186 or toll free - (877) 253-2603

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## Revised Product List for Water Quality Restrictions

The water quality restrictions list has been expanded and hopefully improved. This document contains a listing of various enforceable restrictions for protecting ground water and surface water quality, and the names and registration numbers of the products containing these label restrictions. The list has been further divided into categories based on the types of label requirements:

- Setbacks, buffers, no-spray zones, and/or vegetative buffer strips near surface waters;
- Irrigation ditches, canals, etc.;
- Aquatic applications to water;
- Preventing runoff from application area;
- Areas which flood frequently or are flooded for prolonged periods;
- Areas having standing water, snow cover, frozen soils, etc.;
- Areas having saturated soils;
- Areas with sandy soils, shallow depths to ground water, and/or low organic matter;
- Chemigation and/or incorporation using irrigation water;
- Wellhead protection (setbacks for mixing, loading and/or applying pesticides).

Indexes for the label statement categories and for product names are included to allow users to find specific information. This document, as well as a Posting Requirements List, is posted on NDA's web site at <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/labels.htm>.

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## Greenhouse Worker Protection

Plants nurtured in greenhouses and plant nurseries often require an application of one or more pesticides to minimize damage from pests. Pesticide applications made in an enclosed space, such as a greenhouse, can present an unseen health risk for greenhouse and nursery workers. For these reasons, the EPA includes greenhouses and plant nurseries under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

Although we may not typically think of growing flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees as the production of agricultural crops, these activities are federally classified as "agriculture", and the labels for pesticides intended for use in greenhouses and plant nurseries will contain an "Agricultural Use" box, which references the WPS.

One important piece of information in the Agricultural Use section of the

product label is the Restricted Entry Interval (REI), which is a period during which people without the appropriate protective clothing must stay out of the treated site. For greenhouses, the REI may be impacted by the ventilation system of the treated site.

The goals of the WPS are to improve safety through improved communication, education for staff, and the use of personal protective equipment.

To ensure good communication about potential safety hazards, employers are to provide a centrally located information area to display an EPA WPS safety poster with medical emergency contact information, copies of pesticide labels, along with records of what pesticides are used, and specific information of when the Restricted Entry Interval (REI) for each treatment expires.

Certified applicators may provide pesticide safety training to uncertified/unlicensed staff. In order to comply with the WPS, very specific training points must be covered. The NDA has a variety of EPA-approved training materials available for employers to use.

Employers are responsible to provide protective equipment to minimize exposure. They must also provide decontamination supplies, in case an employee comes in contact with pesticides or their residues.

For additional information concerning the Worker Protection Standard see the following site: <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html>

For WPS compliance or training materials, contact the NDA at (402) 471-2394.

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## NDA Offering Computer Based Testing in Omaha

Some NDA exams can be taken any weekday between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at:

UNO Eppley Administration Building  
Room 113  
6001 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68182

Four NDA exams (00-General Standards, 04-Ornamental and Turf, 08-Structural Pest Control and

08W-Wood Destroying Organisms) are offered at this location. Exam sessions begin at 2:00 p.m. and must be completed by 4:00 p.m.

Exam takers can preregister for exams by calling the NDA at (877) 800-4080. Once a password is assigned, you will call (877) 533-2900 to schedule an exam date that works for you. You will be asked for credit card information. Exam takers are charged a \$45 fee per exam which is

split between The University of Omaha (UNO) campus and the software vender.

After an exam is taken, you will be able to print a report with your overall exam score and details of how you scored each section of the exam. You will later be billed by NDA for any license fees due.

For testing at other locations, see [www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/certest.htm](http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/certest.htm)

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## Web Links of Interest

American Association of Poison Control Centers - <http://www.aapcc.org/> - contains poison center survey call results, poison prevention education, and dispels frequent/new rumors.

Extensión en Español publications — <http://extensionenespanol.net/publications.cfm> — including those on Land, Air & Water, Pesticide Safety, Waste Management, and Lawn Maintenance.

EPA web sites with pesticide information available in Espanol:

- Protecting Children — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/children\\_sp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/children_sp.htm)
- Emergency Information — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/emergency\\_sp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/emergency_sp.htm)
- Illegal Pesticide Products — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/illegalproducts/illegalproducts\\_sp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/illegalproducts/illegalproducts_sp.htm)
- Using Pesticides Safely — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/safely\\_sp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/safely_sp.htm)
- Dos and Don'ts of Pest Control — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/doanddont\\_sp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/doanddont_sp.htm)

EPA's Chinese web portal — <http://www.epa.gov/chinese/> — compiles EPA Chinese-language materials on a wide variety of issues from lead poisoning prevention, energy efficiency, and clean water to proper management of pesticides.

EPA's Spanish web portal — <http://www.epa.gov/espanol/>

EPA Atrazine Updates — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/re-registration/atrazine/atrazine\\_update.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/re-registration/atrazine/atrazine_update.htm) — Current Status of Various Studies of Atrazine including community water system monitoring, ecological watershed monitoring, cancer research, and effects to amphibians.

EPA's Pesticide Labeling Questions & Answers — [http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/label\\_review\\_faq.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/labels/label_review_faq.htm)

EPA's Aquatic Life Benchmark Table — [http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk\\_ders/aquatic\\_life\\_benchmark.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppefed1/ecorisk_ders/aquatic_life_benchmark.htm) — provides information on the acute and chronic levels of pesticides in water that affect aquatic life (invertebrates, phytoplankton, macrophytes, and/or fish).

EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories — <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/drinking/> — regulatory information on the acute and chronic levels of pesticides in water that affect human health (drinking water standards and health advisories).

Granular Know How — [www.gardening123.com](http://www.gardening123.com) — available as a video or pamphlet, a guide to responsible use of granular fertilizers and pesticides in urban/suburban areas

Private Landowner Network — <http://www.privatelandownernetwork.org/> — designed to aggregate service providers and information to assist and facilitate voluntary private land conservation initiatives.

*CropWatch* — <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/> — presents timely information from researchers and Extension specialists and educators at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR)

Pesticides in the Nation's Streams and Ground Water, 1992-2001 (published March 2006) — <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/pnsp/pubs/circ1291/>

USDA National Agroforestry Center — <http://www.unl.edu/nac/> — information and publications on riparian forest buffers and other agroforestry practices for water quality, wildlife, alternative crops, and other benefits.

Cornell University fact sheets — <http://envirocancer.cornell.edu/factsheet/cPESTICIDES.cfm> — on health effects of pesticides, including farm family exposure to pesticides and risks from specific pesticides.

USDA's Agroforestry Notes — <http://www.unl.edu/nac/agroforestrynotes.htm> — on "Sustaining Native Bee Habitat For Crop Pollination" and "Improving Forage For Native Bee Crop Pollinators"

Great Plains Noxious and Invasive Weeds — <http://www.gpniw.org/> — Contains a forum for weed professionals, recent weed news, and links to weed management areas, publications, and other useful information.

The Glyphosate, Weeds, and Crops Web Site — <http://www.glyphosateweeds crops.org/> — contains the latest information and research from member universities.

**Department of Agriculture  
Noxious Weed Program  
(402) 471-2394**

Mitch Coffin - Manager

Vacant - Pesticide and Noxious Weed  
Program Staff Assistant

Chris Kelly - (southeast)  
(402) 821-3023

David Boschult - (northeast)  
(402) 887-4789

Brent Meyer - (south central)  
(402) 226-2020

Cris Burks - (west)  
(308) 487-5520

Todd Weverka - (southwest)  
(308) 962-8405

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**Web site: [www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pstnx/news.htm](http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pstnx/news.htm)**

**Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide Program Staff  
(402) 471-2394**

Tim Creger - Manager

Buzz Vance - Certification/WPS Training

Craig Romary - Groundwater/Buffer Strip/  
Endangered Species

Alisha Hanika - Product Registration/  
Dealer Licenses

Herbert Bates - Case Review Officer

Inspectors:  
Kevin Holdorf - (Omaha metro region)  
(402) 253-3948

Rich Franchini - (north central region)  
(402) 529-6808

Clayton Haman - (southeast region)  
(402) 471-2394

Jeff Elsen - (Panhandle region)  
(308) 254-7640

Eric Fuentes-Ruiz - (southwest region)  
(308) 995-2158

*This newsletter is available in other formats  
for persons with disabilities upon request.  
For an alternate format or for additional  
information on topics in this publication,  
please call the Nebraska Department of  
Agriculture at  
(402) 471-2394.*

*TDD users can contact the Department by  
first calling the Nebraska Relay System.  
Telephone (800) 833-7352 and asking the  
operator to call  
(402) 471-2394.*

**Greg Ibach, Director  
Craig Romary, Editor**

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PAID  
LINCOLN, NE  
PERMIT NO. 212

Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Plant Industry  
P.O. Box 94756  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756

# Informational Materials Available

NDA has published material covering all aspects of the pesticide and noxious weed programs. These are available for individuals and groups in hard copy, and many are also available on the Internet. In addition, NDA personnel are available for addressing dealers, applicators, and organizations at both formal and informal meetings. Please call (402) 471-2394 to request any of the materials listed below or to visit with NDA staff. Unless otherwise noted, all materials are free of charge.

## **Environmental Programs**

- “County Bulletins” for the interior least tern and piping plover (brochures for 32 counties having voluntary pesticide application recommendations, EPA; <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/endanger/>)
- Blowout Penstemon: Endangered Plant (brochure, NDA)
- Western Prairie Fringed Orchid: Threatened Plant (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska’s Threatened & Endangered Species: Blowout Penstemon (brochure, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)
- Nebraska’s Threatened & Endangered Species: Western Prairie fringed Orchid (brochure, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)
- Nebraska’s Threatened & Endangered Species: Interior Least Tern (brochure, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)
- Nebraska’s Threatened & Endangered Species: Piping Plover (brochure, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)
- Pesticides and Groundwater – An Applicator’s Guide to Prevent Groundwater Contamination (brochures with maps covering every county, University of Nebraska; <http://csd.unl.edu/pestguides/pestguides.asp>)
- Nebraska Buffer Strip Act and Regulations (booklet, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/buff.htm>)
- Buffer Strip Programs – Helping landowners protect Nebraska’s natural resources (brochure, Nebraska Corn Grower’s Association)
- Big Buck\$ for Buffers (flyer, Nebraska Corn Grower’s Association)
- Conservation Buffers Work – Economically and Environmentally (brochure, USDA NRCS)
- Transport, Storage and Disposal of Pesticides (booklet, University of Nebraska; <http://pested.unl.edu/pesticide/pages/index.jsp>)
- Pesticide Storage Security (posters – 8½ x 11" and 18 x 24", University of Nebraska; <http://pested.unl.edu/pesticide/pages/index.jsp>)
- Pesticide Label Queries (for posting requirements and water quality protection; available at <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/pest1.htm>)

## **Nebraska Pesticide Act – Rules and Regulations**

- Nebraska Pesticide Act and Regulations (booklet, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/regulate.htm>)
- Pesticide Applicator Certification – Answers to Common Questions (brochure, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/pacl.htm>)
- Pesticide Record Keeping Requirements in Nebraska (brochure, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/record.pdf>)
- The 60-Day Rule (brochure, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/60day.htm>)
- Which Pesticide Applicator License Do I Need? (brochure, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/wpal.htm>)
- NDA Pesticide Technical Interpretations (for termiticides and intermittent streams; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/technical.htm>)

- Mixer/Loader Training (video or CD, University of Nebraska)
- How to Help Your Employees Pass NDA Certification Exams (brochure, NDA; also at [http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/exams\\_brochure.htm](http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/exams_brochure.htm))
- The Pesticide Enforcement Process: How Pesticides Are Regulated In Nebraska (brochure, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/enfbroc.htm>)

### **Noxious Weeds**

- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Canada Thistle (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Musk Thistle (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Plumeless Thistle (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Leafy Spurge (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Knapweed, Spotted and Diffuse (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Purple Loosestrife (brochure, NDA)
- Nebraska Noxious Weeds: Saltcedar (brochure, NDA)
- Noxious Weed Control Act and Regulations (booklet, NDA; <http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/nwp/nwp1.htm>)
- The Thistles of Nebraska (brochure, NDA) (In short supply; will require a fee for large quantities.)
- Weeds of the Great Plains (book, UNL & NDA; \$25 each, see <http://www.agr.ne.gov/forms/nw11.pdf> for order form)

## **Worker Protection Standard (WPS)**

### **Informational Resources:**

- How to Comply Manual - What Employers Need To Know (2005 Edition) EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html>)
- How to Comply Manual (2005 Edition on CD), EPA
- 4 page Summary outlining major elements of the WPS, NDA
- 1 page WPS Agricultural Worker Training Requirements list, NDA
- 1 page WPS Agricultural Handler Training Requirements list, NDA
- Worker Protection Standard Fact Sheets; EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/factsheets/index.html>)

### **Brochures**

- WPS - Duties of Employers, NDA
- WPS - Nurseries and Greenhouses, NDA
- WPS and Family Businesses, NDA
- Seed Corn Detasseler Safety and First Aid, NDA
- NEW! What do I do if I'm exposed to pesticides? (*English/Spanish*), NDA

### **Compliance Materials:**

- SAFETY POSTER, Protect Yourself from Pesticides (*English/Spanish*), NDA

### **Training Resources:**

#### **Manuals**

- Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Guide for Agricultural Workers (*English/Spanish*), EPA